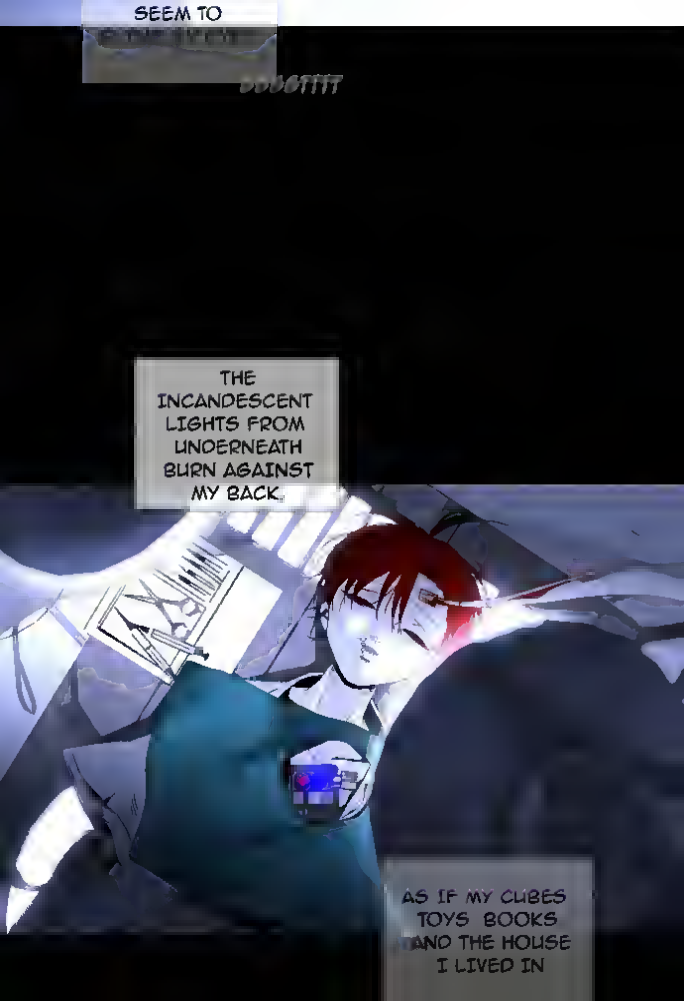
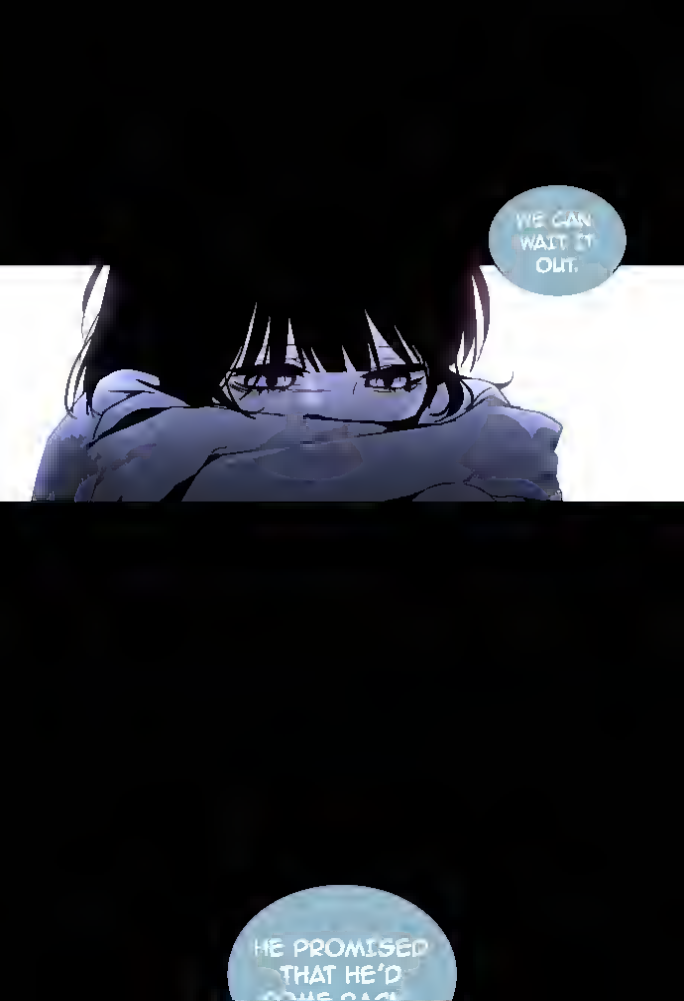
WHIRRING SOUND
OF MACHINERY.
LIGHTS THAT


SEEM TO
THE INCANDESCENT LIGHTS FROM UNDERNEATH BURN AGAINST MY BACK.
AS IF MY CUBES TOYS BOOKS AND THE HOUSE I LIVED IN

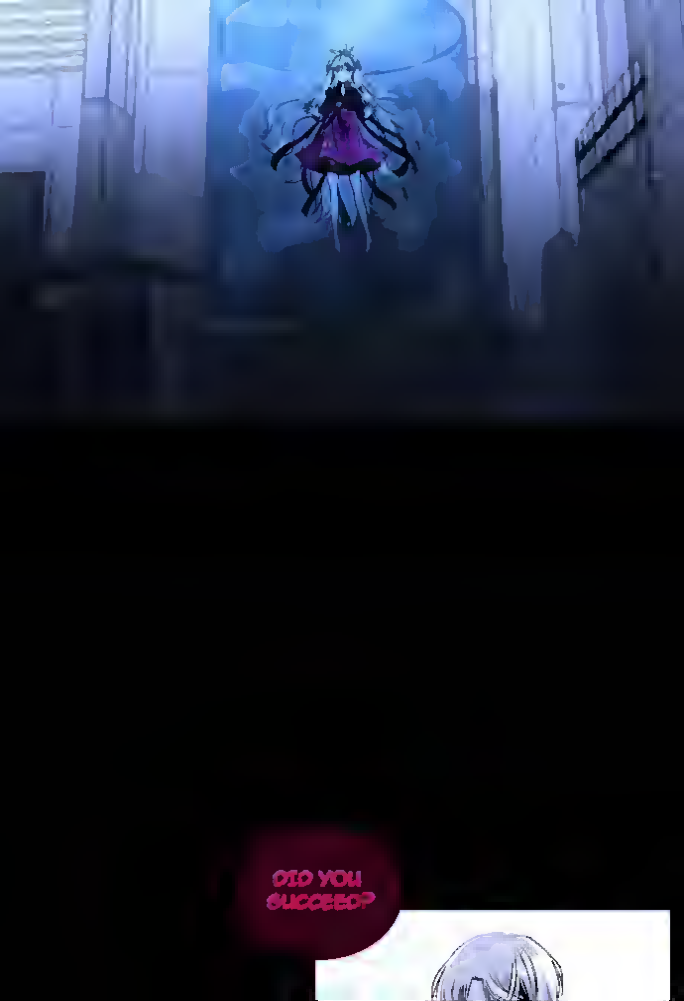
HAVE BEEN ALL ENGULFED BY HELLFIRE...
DRIP...

I THINK I MIGHT

THE DOCTOR TOOK HIM.
THIS IS ALL A NIGHTMARE


WE CAN WAIT IT OUT.
HE PROMISED THAT HE'D

COME BACK


DID YOU SUCCEED?

EN PISTE DIDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE. BUT IT WASN'T SUCCESSFUL.

I NEED TO TAKE IT SLOW FOR 29 DAYS. SO HIS IMMUNE SYSTEM DOESN'T REACT AGAINST THE INJECTED SYNIEZ

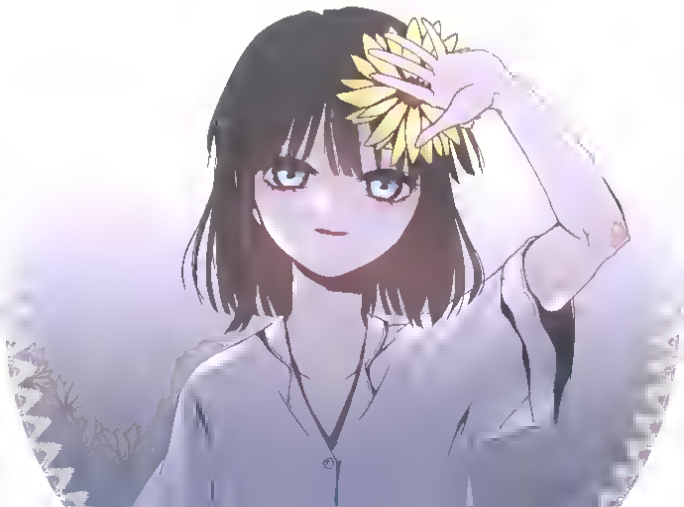
IT WAS AN EXPERIMENT THAT TURNED EN PISTE DORMANT.
IT HAD ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE BRAIN OFTEN LEADING TO PARTIAL MEMORY LOSS
SOME LOST CONTROL OF THEIR BODY DUE TO BRAIN DAMAGE.

MOST KIDS DIED
WHEN THEIR EN PISTE
COMMITTED SUICIDE.

BY HAIR COLOR AND FACIAL FEATURES.
I FAINTLY RECALL

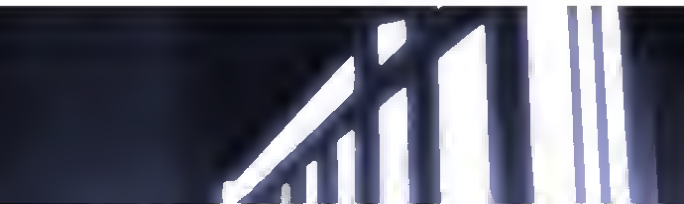
FOUR KIDS BESIDES SENIKA AND ME, OUT OF THE TOTAL 13 AT THE FACILITY.

THERE WERE ONLY
SIX KIDS WHO
COULD SHARE SENIKA'S
LUCID DREAMS.



THAT MIRACLE OF SYNODIC MONTH

09



A STRANGE KID
THE WAY PEOPLE PERCEIVED ME AS A CHILD

WAS THAT I LACKED A FEW QUALITIES YOU NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS.
KASIN CALLED ME CRAZY.
PYSCHIE SAID IT WAS PERSONALITY

DISORDER.
BUT I JUST LACKED INTEREST IN TALKING TO OTHERS.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
WHAT?

THANK THE PEN YOU'RE IN.
OR YOU'D HAVE NO HAIR LEFT

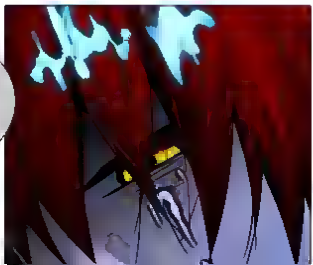
BUT YOU CAN PLUCK THEM.
AT LEAST TRY TO MAKE OUT DREAMS FROM REALITY
LITTLE MEMORIES BEFORE CONFINEMENT HAD LEFT ME

WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS OFTEN TIMES FADED DIM.

IF I HAD REMAINED THERE,
I WAS DOOMED TO DIE FROM EXPERIMENTS.
IF MY SYNIEZ HADN'T REALIZED ITSELF.

I MIGHT PUKE

TAKE IT EASY IT'S BEEN BARELY 20 MINUTES.


HIASEN NOTICED YOU FAINTED.
ALL I COULD DO WAS COVER YOUR HAIR, SO DON'T

BLAME ME
MY HAIR...
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY MAGIC?
HOW CAN IT

WORK WITH YOU LIKE THIS?

IF YOU'RE SICK, SAY SOMETHING— DON'T HOLD OUT UNTIL YOU BLACK OUT!

YOU NEED STRENGTH TO FIND HEATH OR WHATEVER HE'S CALLED!

CAPTAIN GAVE PERMISSION. BUT,
HE HAS LOTS AT STAKE SINCE TESERA IS INVOLVED, SO YOU NEED TO RISK YOUR NECK.

REALLY?
SO WORK WITH ME NOW.
TELL ME ABOUT 214 YEARS AGO AND HOW THINGS WENT.

I KNOW IT CAN BE HARD,

BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

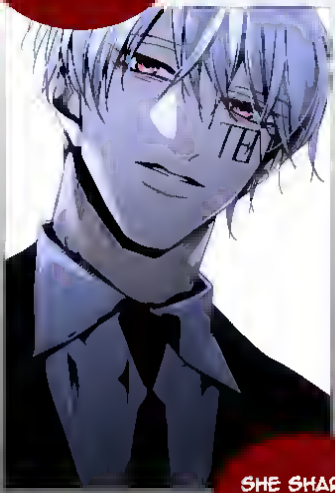
YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS?
I CAN MAKE THINGS EASIER!!
DO I REALLY HAVE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF?!

RAMBLE ON, WHATEVER YOU REMEMBER!!
AND DON'T MAKE THAT STUPID LOOK!!

I DON'T KNOW.
HALF OF MY DAYS WERE DREAMS, SO I DION'T KNOW WHAT WAS REAL.
DREAMS! WHAT WERE THEY TO YOU?

WHERE SENIKA WAS.
WHERE SENIKA COULD CALL THE OTHERS.
WHO DID SHE INVITE?

THE KIDS HEATH USED AS SUBJECTS 214 YEARS AGO.



SHE SHARED HER DREAMS WITH THE KIDS.

BECAUSE WE NO
LONGER REMEMBERED
AFTER THE EXPERIMENTS.

SENIKA WAS A LUCID DREAMER, SO SHE INVITED US.
AS SENIKA WASN'T IMMUNE TO MANA,
SHE WASN'T USED UNTIL THE LAST KID DIED.

SO SHE REMEMBERED IT ALL AND SHARED IT WITH US.
YOU DON'T

KNOW WHAT EXPERIMENT IT WAS?

I THINK HE WANTED TO MAKE A SYNIEZ,

BUT I'M NOT TOO SURE.

IF THAT'S TRUE, HEATH...
NO.
THAT IDIOT COULD NEVER HAVE SUCCEEDED.

FROM WHAT I CAN RECALL FROM THEN,
I REALIZED MY INNATE MANA IN MY OWN DREAMS.
JUMP
YOU JUST LOST ME THERE!!

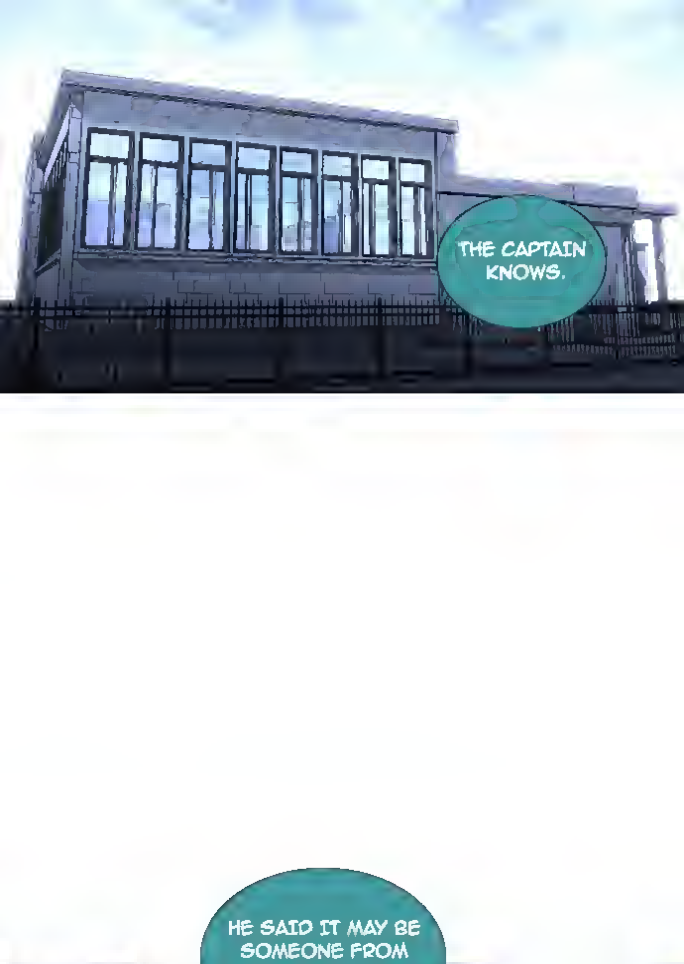
YOU KNOW MELLY?
FOUR YEARS AGO, HIASEN BORROWED MELLY'S SYNIEZ POWER AND FOUND ME.

I THOUGHT OF WHY SHE GAVE HIASEN HER DIARY INSTEAD OF FINDING ME HERSELF.
I FIGURED YOU CAN FIND ONLY THOSE YOU KNOW.

I'VE FAILED TO FIND THE GUY I HAD SPENT YEARS ON
BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW HIM.

IF IT'S A PLACE AND SOMEONE I KNOW,
THEN I CAN FIND THEM WITH SYNIEZ.

SO WHILE
I LOOK FOR HEATH,
YOU AND THE TEAM
DIVERT THE FOCUS
ON THE FIRE


THE CAPTAIN KNOWS.
HE SAID IT MAY BE SOMEONE FROM MANA ASSOCIATION 221 YEARS AGO

THIS IS LIKE WAGING WAR AGAINST TESERA.

THE ASSOCIATION KNEW OF THE SUSPECT 221 YEARS AGO?

THOUGH FULLY AWARE, THEIR ATTITUDE MEANS THEY WON'T COOPERATE.
THE SUSPECT COULD HAVE TIES WITH THE PRESIDENT.
ALL THE MORE REASON TO BE CAREFUL.

GO GET SOME SHOOTING PRACTICE!
BUT!

NOT SLEEPING, RUSHING ABOUT, PASSING OUT.
WHAT DO I DO..?

THIS IS OUT OF MY LEAGUE.
SIR...
CAPTAIN
CAN I SEE YOU UPSTAIRS?
THE PRESIDENT, TEN, KANIS AND NOW YOU HIASEN...

I'M AFRAID OF WHAT I MAY HAVE TO HEAR.
DIRECTOR TEN TOLD US YOU GAVE BACK THE CASE.

I'M REALLY GRATEFUL.

BUT FRANKLY, I'M FEELING... ANXIOUS.

I'VE PSHYCHED YOU OUT,

I SHUDDER AT MY INCOM-PETENCE.

.....
I'VE NOTHING TO SAY THAT CAN CHEER YOU UP.
IF THE SUSPECT ISN'T REGISTERED AS THE 2ND DEPT. DIRECTOR SAID,

HE .. OR HIS ACCOMPLICE FOR THE FIRE MIGHT POSSESS HIGH-RISK MANA
IF YOU'RE AFRAID, WHO WILL HELP THE VICTIMS?

I PROMISED THAT I'D HANG IN THERE...

BUT I DON'T FEEL JUST READY YET...

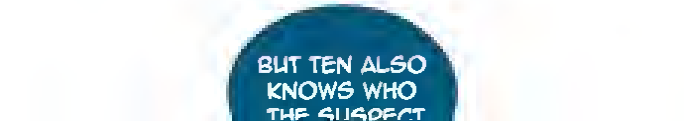
I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN JOIN WHAT RESTS HEAVY ON YOUR SHOULDERS.

YOU REALLY...
MAKE ME SAY WHAT I HADN'T PLANNED TO.

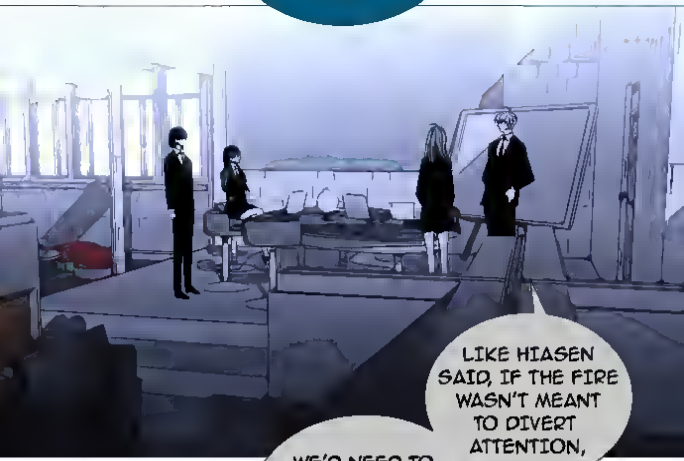
I GAVE BACK THE CASE BECAUSE TEN ASSURED ME.
SO DON'T FRET YOURSELF... FOR ME OR FOR THE TEAM.

BASED ON THE ASSOCIATION'S STANCE AND FILES I RECEIVED,
THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO KNOW THE SUSPECT AND HIS CRIME.

THIS WAS KEPT FROM ME FOR REASONS OTHER THAN THE PRESIDENT'S,


BUT TEN ALSO KNOWS WHO

IS.



LIKE HIASEN SAID, IF THE FIRE WASN'T MEANT TO DIVERT ATTENTION,

WE'D NEED TO MONITOR ANY RECENT FIRES OR THOSE YET TO HAPPEN.

ONCE WE MAP OUT WHERE THE FIRES HAD BEEN SET,

LET'S INVESTIGATE ANY SUSPICIOUS EXPERIMENTS THAT ARE NEARBY.

I COULD DOUBT HIM, BUT I'M CERTAIN.

HE HAS MY FULL TRUST ON THIS CASE.

▸▸To be continued...